

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

LINDA ROBERSON PALMER JUDD

October 6, 1970



Linda Roberson Palmer Judd was born in 1939, the oldest of four siblings, on a farm near Morrison, Oklahoma. Her father, John Roberson, was a farmer, millwright and contractor whose work took him to various areas of the United States during Judd's schooling. Her mother, Mabel Roberson, worked in the home. Judd graduated high school as valedictorian in 1957 in Grandview, Idaho.

After high school, in 1957, Judd married a young airman, Dean Palmer, who was killed near Stanley, Idaho, in November 1958 as a result of a hunting accident. Judd and Dean's son, Richard, was born in March 1959. Judd and Richard lived with her family, consisting of her parents, two brothers and one sister, in a small town near Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In 1962, when Richard was almost three years old, Judd began her freshman year at Oklahoma State University. Judd's family lovingly watched over Richard during the day while Judd was at school at Oklahoma State.

Judd attended Oklahoma State University from January 1962 to May 1964, being elected to the honors program in 1963 and 1964. She majored in Political Science. Judd's work and receipt of survivor benefits from the government as a result of Dean's death allowed her to continue school with the goal of attending law school. After her father's work took him back to the area of Mountain Home, Idaho, Judd and Richard moved to Moscow, Idaho, in 1965. Richard started first grade in Moscow and Judd transferred her Oklahoma State University credits to the University of Idaho where she earned her B.A. under a combined Letters and Science and Law program in 1968, after taking a year off from school to return to work at Mountain Home Air Force Base when her father died in 1966.

After her widowed mother took an office job at Elmore Memorial Hospital in Mountain Home in 1967, Judd and Richard returned to Moscow, Idaho, where she entered law school at the University of Idaho in 1967 - one of only two women in her first year law school class. Judd was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies at the University of Idaho in 1968. She also received a commendation for her moot court presentation from the International Academy of Trial Lawyers while in law school.

Judd graduated law school in 1970. She was admitted to the practice of law in Idaho on October 6, 1970, before the Idaho Supreme Court sitting for fall term in the Kootenai County Courthouse in Coeur d'Alene.

Judd met James F. Judd in law school; he was a second year law student when she entered law school. They became steadfast friends after overcoming some initial rivalry and antagonism; they married the summer after Judd graduated from law school. Judd and Richard moved to Post

Falls with Jim and sometime later all three decided it would be a good idea to legally acknowledge by adoption the family bond and father-son relationship between Richard and Jim.

Judd began her practice of law in the fall of 1970 in Post Falls, Idaho, with her husband, Jim, in the Judd & Judd law office, where she was a general practitioner. Together they practiced law for many years, until 1987 when Jim was elected to the position of district court judge with chambers in Coeur d'Alene. Judd continued her active law practice in Post Falls.

In addition to maintaining a full caseload, Judd served the state and her community in several capacities. From 1978 through 1993 she served as one of three Commissioners of the Idaho Uniform State Laws Commission, a position she was appointed to by Governor Evans and later reappointed to by Governor Andrus. As a Commissioner, she served as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws from 1987 to 1989 and she served on drafting committees for the conference, including the Uniform Notarial Act (1978-1983), the Uniform Marital Property Act (1979-1983), the Power of Attorney Statutory Form Act (1985-1987), and the Uniform Victims of Crime Act (1990-1992). Governor Andrus appointed Judd to the Idaho Job Training Council in 1989 and she served as its Chair from 1991 to 1993. Judd also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Post Falls Library from 1986-1993, and as President of the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce in 1985.

Judd has also been active with the Bar in Idaho. She was a member of the Board of Governors of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association from 1978-1979 and in 1991-1992, and was a contributing writer to both the first (1985) and second (1989) editions of the *Idaho Appellate Handbook*, writing the chapter entitled "Taking the Appeal and Settling the Appellate Record in the State System." In addition, Judd has volunteered her time and efforts with the Idaho Law Foundation, currently serving as Secretary of its Board of Directors.

In 1993, the Idaho State Bar awarded Judd with its Professionalism Award for the First Judicial District, which is given to an attorney who "has engaged in extraordinary activity in his or her community, in the state, or in the profession, which reflects the highest standards of professionalism." She was the first woman to receive this award.

In 2001, the Judds moved to Boise after Jim took senior status as a district court judge. Judd opened the Judd Law Office in Boise and continues to do volunteer work today. On reflection of her career and life, Judd notes: "The opportunities that have been available to me would have been unattainable without the love, support and encouragement of my partner and husband, Jim Judd, our son, Richard, and our extended families."